

320 Eighth St., NW (Commercial Building)
(Capital Souvenirs)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC- 498

HABS
DC,
WASH,
375-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

HABS
DC
WASH
375

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 320 Eighth St., NW (Commercial Building)		HABS NO. DC-498
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE "Capital Souvenirs		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 320 Eighth Street, N.W., Square 408, Lot 14		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE). No building permit available; building appears on 1887 Hopkins Plat Map.	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This structure was originally built as a dwelling, with possible commercial use on the ground floor. It served as a bar and saloon until the 1930's, when it became a real estate office. Since few examples of this construction remain in the downtown area, today this building in its extreme (see attached sheet #1)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Nineteenth Century Commercial		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing walls; Internal wood frame, joists run north-south.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular - approximately 96'x21'. Four stories gabled volume in the front, two story ell in the midsection and one story in the rear.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Modern storefront at ground level; trabeated windows diminishing in height with each floor, boarded over; simple corbelled brick cornice on the eave. Gabled roof.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Ground level - Open space; pressed metal ceiling; stairs along south wall. Second floor - Extensive fire damage. Third and fourth floors - Wood plank flooring, wooden doors and frames; fireplaces on north wall.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Add a storefront to dwelling (Permit #2598, 6/5/1887). Remodel show windows and make alterations, (Permit #3044, 2/23/1915). A one-story rear addition to store, opening in south wall of (see attached sheet #1)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant - The ground level is being remodelled.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This building lies within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania National Historic Site. It is scheduled for redevelopment as part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's Historic Preservation Plan, 1977.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Records/Permits - National Archives, Columbia Historical Society.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Michelle Trageser - Anderson Notter/Mariani for The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation		DATE 11/13/80

320 Eighth St., NW (Commercial Building)
"Capital Souvenirs/National Typesetting"
320 Eighth Street, N.W., Square 408, Lot 14
Washington, D.C.

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(Pg. 2)

SIGNIFICANCE (CON'T):

simplicity contributes to Washington's architectural heritage.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES (CON'T):

existing store. (Permit #188564, 3/20/1936)